

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TANGIE 00525 151200Z

20

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-05 /101 W

----- 030586

P R 141610Z NOV 75

FM AMCONSUL TANGIER

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3245

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

USMISSION USUN

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

FOSIF ROTA

COMSIXTHFLT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TANGIER 0525

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MO, SP, SS, GI

SUBJECT: GIBRALTAR AND MOROCCAN-SPANISH NEGOTIATIONS

USCINCEUR AND CINCUSNAVEUR ALSO FOR POLADS

REF: RABAT 5530

EMBASSY RABAT (REFTEL) REPORTS SPECULATION OVER POSSIBLE
OVERALL GOM/GOS DEAL INVOLVING NOT ONLY SAHARA BUT ALSO
CEUTA AND MELILLA AND CONCERTED ACTION ON GIBRALTAR. I TOO
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TANGIE 00525 151200Z

DOUBT THAT THESE ISSUES WILL BE TREATED IN ANY MORE THAN A

GENERAL WAY AT THIS TIME, IF AT ALL, BUT IT IS PERHAPS WORTH NOTING THAT THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF A DEAL INVOLVING GIBRALTAR HAS BEEN MENTIONED AT LEAST TWICE, THOUGH WELL BEFORE THE CURRENT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS, IN MY CONVERSATIONS WITH SPANISH OFFICIALS.

2. MOROCCO'S ABILITY TO PUT PRESSURE ON GIBRALTAR IS INDEED SUBSTANTIAL. WHEN THE BORDER BETWEEN SPAIN AND GIBRALTAR CLOSED IN 1969 GIBRALTAR NOT ONLY LOST ITS SPANISH LABOR FORCE, IT ALSO LOST ITS MAIN SUPPLIER OF FRESH FOODS. MOROCCO IN THE SUCCEEDING YEARS HAS FILLED THE VOID. VIRTUALLY ALL FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES CONSUMED ON GIBRALTAR NOW COME FROM MOROCCO, AND MOST OF THE UNSKILLED AND SEMI-SKILLED JOBS ARE FILLED BY MOROCCAN WORKERS. IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, WHERE GIBRALTAR'S DEPENDENCE ON MOROCCO IS MOST PRONOUNCED, MORE THAN ONE THIRD OF THE JOBS ARE FILLED BY MOROCCANS; IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR ROUGHLY 20 PERCENT OF THE WORK FORCE IS FROM MOROCCO . THE TOTAL CIVILIAN WORK FORCE NOW CONSISTS ROUGHLY OF 8,500 GIBRALTARIANS AND BRITISH AND 3,000 MOROCCANS. THE DEPARTURE OF THE MOROCCANS AND THE LOSS OF MOROCCO AS A SUPPLIER OF FRESH FOODS WOULD HAVE A TREMENDOUS IMPACT ON THE ROCK'S ECONOMY.

3. THE BRITISH WHO HAVE PROMISED TO SUPPORT AND SUSTAIN GIBRALTAR WOULD NO DOUBT TRY TO FIND SOME WAY TO "SOLDIER THROUGH". BRINGING WORKERS FROM BRITAIN OR FROM OTHER MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES, HOWEVER, WOULD BE A COSTLY EXERCISE. MOROCCANS, DESPERATE FOR GOOD PAYING JOBS, ARE WILLING TO LEAVE THEIR FAMILIES BEHIND AND LIVE IN BARRACKS ON THE ROCK. BUT THEIR EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS INCLUDE FREQUENT TRIPS BACK HOME TO TANGIER TO VISIT THEIR FAMILIES AND THE NEARNESS OF GIBRALTAR TO TANGIER MAKES SUCH ARRANGEMENTS A PRACTICAL POSSIBILITY. IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT RECRUITS FROM MORE DISTANT MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES WOULD ACCEPT THE CONDITIONS THE MOROCCANS NOW TOLERATE. BRITISH WORKERS CERTAINLY WOULD NOT. ANY LONG TERM SOLUTION WOULD ALMOST CERTAIN INVOLVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF WORKER HOUSING, AND IF BRITISH WORKERS WERE BROUGHT SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER WAGES WOULD HAVE TO BE PAID . THE COST OF IMPORTING FRESH FOODS FROM MORE DISTANT COUNTRIES WOULD ALSO ADD TO THE IMPACT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 TANGIE 00525 151200Z

ON GIBRALTAR'S FRAGILE ECONOMY. PERHAPS THE GREATEST WORRY WOULD BE THE POSSIBLE EFFECT OF THE INFLATIONARY SPIRAL ON THE LEVEL OF ACTIVITY OF GIBRALTAR'S MAJOR EMPLOYER, THE ROYAL DOCKYARD WHOSE SERVICES MUST COMPETE WITH SIMILAR SERVICES AVAILABLE IN BRITAIN.

4. SO MOROCCO DOES HAVE A SERIOUS TRUMP CARD TO PLAY IN ANY GAME INVOLVING GIBRALTAR. AND THE PRESSURE IT COULD

BRING TO BEAR WOULD BE FELT NOT ONLY ON THE ECONOMIC BUT ALSO ON THE PSYCHOLOGICAL SIDE. SINCE THE CLOSING OF THE BORDER WITH SPAIN, GIBALTARIANS HAVE ONLY TWO ROUTES OUT OF THEIR TERRITORY, BY AIR TO LONDON AND TO MOROCCO. SHOULD MOROCCO BE CLOSED TO THE GIBALTARIANS, THEIR ISOLATION WOULD BE ALMOST COMPLETE.

5. TO REPEAT MY OPENING REMARK, I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE ISSUE OF GIBALTAR WILL COME UP AT THIS TIME. ON THE SLIGHT CHANCE THAT IT DOES, HOWEVER, THE FOREGOING COMMENTS MAY BE USEFUL IN ASSESSING THE ABILITY OF MOROCCO TO MAKE LIFE DIFFICULT FOR BRITAIN AND GIBALTAR.

EASTMAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTES, FOREIGN RELATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TANGIE00525
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750398-0770
From: TANGIER
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751144/aaaabnlk.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 RABAT 5530
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <31 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GIBRALTAR AND MOROCCAN-SPANISH NEGOTIATIONS USCINCEUR AND CINCUSNAVEUR ALSO FOR POLADS
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MO, SP, SS, GI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006